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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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GENERAL

Date: 10 Mar 76 By:

1. US attitude toward reconvening CEEC--The Department of State has advised US Embassy London that any debate by a reconvened CEEC on acceptability of US conditions for the granting of aid might prejudice the chances of Congressional approval of the European recovery program. The Department further questions the wisdom of holding a CEEC meeting before Congressional intentions have been clarified in committee hearings.

2. US opposes reduction of personnel in Embassy Moscow--The Department of State has recommended to Ambassador Smith in Moscow that he firmly resist pressure by the USSR to reduce personnel in Embassy Moscow

The Department considers that because of the increasing need for "reliable" intelligence concerning conditions in the USSR, the Embassy should maintain as large a staff as housing permits.

EUROPE

3. FRANCE: Reaction to De Gaulle's 4 January speech--US Ambassador Caffery reports that De Gaulle's St. Etienne speech has evoked little popular enthusiasm but has antagonized non-Communist labor by its suggestions of a corporate state. Jouhaux, leader of Force Ouvriere (FO), remarks that De Gaulle's speech will merely confirm Communist and FO assertions that De Gaulle plans a "corporative" state and the elimination of independent trade unionism. Caffery comments that although the speech has tended to damage De Gaulle's position in parliamentary circles, there is still a good chance of his return to power if the Schuman Government fails to stabilize the financial and economic situation in the next two or three months.

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THE AMERICAS

4. PARAGUAY: Possible renewal of civil war--US Embassy Asuncion reports that the situation in Paraguay "is bad" and that bloodshed is possible. Because of the situation, Ambassador Warren has requested authorization to come to Washington for consultation.

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